A LETTER



or decades, the United States has been welcoming Indian students, teachers and researchers to enrich. and be enriched by, America's universities and colleges. Many of these exchanges are subsidized by the educational institutions them-

selves or by U.S. government funding, through fellowships, scholarships and other programs. For the past four years, India has surpassed all other countries in the number of students it sends to the United States: 80.466 enrolled for the 2004-05 academic year. American students are coming to India, too, to learn about the history, culture, economics and political system, as well as to gain from cooperating in top-level science, engineering and agricultural research. More than in the past, these students come speaking Hindi and other Indian languages, or they come to learn them. President George W. Bush has encouraged this, funding an initiative that includes Hindi and Urdu among the strategically important languages for American students to learn as our countries grow closer and young people of both nations grow up to become global citizens. Also, universities are linking up to share professors—in person and virtually—recognize each other's courses and someday, perhaps, issue joint degrees. The mutual desire of our two peoples for quality education serves as a foundation for more cooperation in other fields. In this special issue we have focused on higher education in response to requests from hundreds of readers. Many of the articles carry Internet links to help you find additional information. This is a new feature aimed at making SPAN more useful to you; and we provide even more links on our Web site, so we hope you will visit us there.

Publisher: Michael H. Anderson Editor-in-Chief: Corina R. Sanders Editor: Laurinda Keys Long Associate Editor: A. Venkata Narayana Urdu Editor: Anjum Naim Hindi Editor: Giriraj Agarwal Copy Editor: Deepanjali Kakati Art Director: Hemant Bhatnagar

Deputy Art Director: Khurshid Anwar Abbasi

Editorial Assistant: Shalini Verma Production/Circulation Manager: Rakesh Agrawal Printing Assistant: Alok Kaushik Business Manager: R. Narayan

Miles H Card

Research Services: American Information Resource Center, Bureau of International Information Programs.

Front cover: Business school graduates cheer while waving dollar bills and international flags during Harvard University's 2004 commencement ceremonies. (Photograph by Michael Dwyer © AP-WWP)

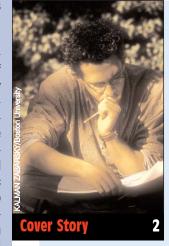
Published by the Public Affairs Section, American Center, 24 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110001 (phone: 23316841), on behalf of the American Embassy, New Delhi. Printed at Ajanta Offset & Packagings Ltd., 95-B Wazirpur Industrial Area, Delhi 110052. The opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Government. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without permission. This magazine contains 68 pages.

Visit SPAN on the Web at

http://usembassy.state.gov/posts/in1/wwwhspan.html

Contact us: editorspan@state.gov

For subscriptions or address change: subscriptionspan@state.gov May/June 2006



Getting Into a U.S. Graduate School By Deepanjali Kakati 6 USEFI: An Educational and Cultural Bridge An interview by Laurinda Keys Long 8 Possible Sources of Financial Aid By Martina Schulze 9 Private Higher Education Excerpts from a speech by Harvard University President Lawrence H. Summers Costs and Choices in American University Life By Monica Mercer What's in a Grade? By Monica Mercer Strength Out of Diversity By Richard Ekman Teaching with Tech By Vicky Hallett Indian Higher Education Gets American Wings By Giriraj Agarwal 24 Americans Studying in India

World Press Freedom By Madhuri Sehgal

Travel: Let a Camera Be Your Eye By Ilana Ozernoy 26 **2**8 In Memoriam: John Kenneth Galbraith

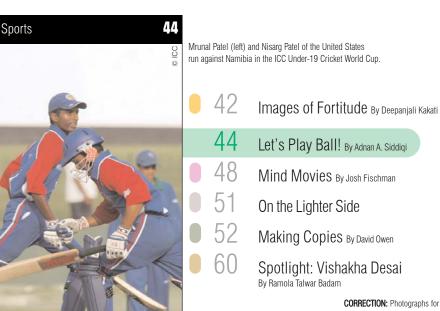
Searching for a Hoopoe By Thomas L. Walley

By Michael Jay Friedman

Audubon: Birdman of America By Richard Rhodes A purple sunbird at Roosevelt House, New Delhi

By A. Venkata Narayana and Laurinda Keys Long





CORRECTION: Photographs for the article, "Agricultural Knowledge Initiative" in the March/April 2006 issue of SPAN were taken by T.G. Venkatesh.